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NESSTAR

Created by
Data Liberation Initiative (DLI)

Modified by Siobhan Hanratty

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What can I do with DLI Nesstar?

- Simple and Advanced Search facilities (search by study or at the variable level)
- Create tables, graphs, and perform calculations online
- Download datasets in various formats or even subsets of the data



Let's have a closer look...

- **NESSTAR:** Networked European Social Science Tools and Resources
 - Web-based *exploration, extraction, and analysis* tool for social science data.
 - DLI Nesstar – 2 catalogues of Statistics Canada data in both official languages
 - 1) Public use microdata files (PUMF)
 - 2) Research Data Centre (RDC) master files



What data can I find in DLI Nesstar?

- **Master files – codebooks only!!**

A master file is constructed which contains all responses by each respondent, recorded in the format specified in the questionnaire. Only two types of users are permitted to access the master file. This being the author division and Research Data Centre (RDC) analysts.

Note: UNB's Research Data Centre (NB RDC): <<http://www2.unb.ca/rdc/>>

- **Public use microdata files (PUMF) – microdata files**

A public-use microdata file is based on a corresponding master file. A PUMF is a sample of survey responses that are anonymous, primarily non-aggregated, and have been scrutinized for confidentiality. As many variables as possible are provided in order to maintain the analytical value of the file.



Access NESSTAR

- Only members of the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) have access to DLI Nesstar. UNB is a DLI institution
- <<https://lib.unb.ca/gddm/data>>

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DLI Nesstar

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Search surveys and statistical products
Search DLI variables
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Enhanced Search

- Statistics Canada Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF)
- Fichiers de microdonnées à grande diffusion de Statistique Canada (FMGD)
- Statistics Canada metadata for Master Files (RDC)
- Métadonnées pour les fichiers maîtres de Statistique Canada (CDR)

Catalogues

Welcome to the NESSTAR data portal, a web-based exploration, extraction and analysis tool for social science data. The NESSTAR data portal consists of several catalogues of Statistics Canada data:

Statistics Canada Public Use Microdata Files (PUMF)
English catalogue of public use microdata files, which contain anonymized, non-aggregated data. Users can download the data file and associated metadata.

Fichiers de microdonnées à grande diffusion de Statistique Canada (FMGD)
French catalogue of public use microdata files, which contain anonymized, non-aggregated data. Users can download the data file and associated metadata.

Statistics Canada metadata for Master Files (RDC)
English catalogue of detailed microdata files, which contains most of the original information collected during the survey interview. Users can only browse or search the survey metadata.

Métadonnées pour les fichiers maîtres de Statistique Canada (CDR)
French catalogue of detailed microdata files, which contains most of the original information collected during the survey interview. Users can only browse or search the survey metadata.

The metadata in this tool does not represent the complete collection of PUMFs and RDC master files. For more information regarding the difference between a PUMF and master file, see [About Microdata](#). We are continuously updating and improving our collections. Please [contact us](#) if you encounter any issues.

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UNB Libraries researchers can access Statistics Canada public use microdata files (PUMFs) online using this resource; however, to access the microdata housed in the Research Data Centres (RDCs), researchers must submit a project proposal to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Statistics Canada.

For more information, please see the NB RDC webpage <<http://www2.unb.ca/rdc/>>

or contact the UNB Data/GIS Librarian, Siobhan Hanratty (hanratty@unb.ca).

Search by survey/products

Search surveys and statistical products

Start over

internet

You may also search DLL variables

36 results

Filter results by

- Type
 - PUMFFILE (35)
 - MASTERFILE (1)
- Survey
 - Survey of Household Spending (8)
 - Canadian Internet Use Survey (7)
 - Household Internet Use Survey (7)
 - General Social Survey (6)
 - Survey of Household Spending Series (5)
 - National Electronic Media Use Survey (1)
- Subject
 - Personal finance and household finance (10)
 - Finance (2)

- [Household Internet Use Survey, 1999 \[Canada\]](#)
About this dataset. The Household Internet Use Survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of Industry Canada. The Household Internet Use Survey is a voluntary survey. It will provide information on the use of
2000-12-04
- [Household Internet Use Survey, 2000 \[Canada\]](#)
About this dataset. The Household Internet Use Survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of Industry Canada. The information from this survey will assist the Science and Technology Redesign Project at
2001-07-26
- [Household Internet Use Survey, 2003 \[Canada\]](#)
About this dataset. The Household Internet Use Survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of Industry Canada. The information from this survey will assist the Science and Technology Redesign Project at
2004-07-08
- [Household Internet Use Survey, 2002 \[Canada\]](#)
About this dataset. The Household Internet Use Survey is being conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of Industry Canada. The information from this survey will assist the Science and Technology Redesign Project at
2003-09-18

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If you are not sure of what survey you need, you can also search by **statistical survey and products** or **perform a search at the variable level**.

You can further restrict your results by filtering by type (PUMF data or Masterfile codebook), survey, or subject. Results are ordered by relevance (most hits first). Click on the survey name and cycle to be taken into the Nesstar webview.

If two or more search times are entered, it will return hits that include all your search terms. It is possible to use other operators to connect words, like AND, OR, NOT and to search for phrases by using quotation marks.


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Search - variables

Search DLI variables

[Start over](#)

[You may also search surveys and statistical products](#)

Filter results by

Filter	Count
Type	
PUMFILE (39)	
Survey	
Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (27)	
Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (12)	
Subject	
Health (39)	
Alcohol (27)	
Drugs (27)	
Lifestyle and social conditions (12)	

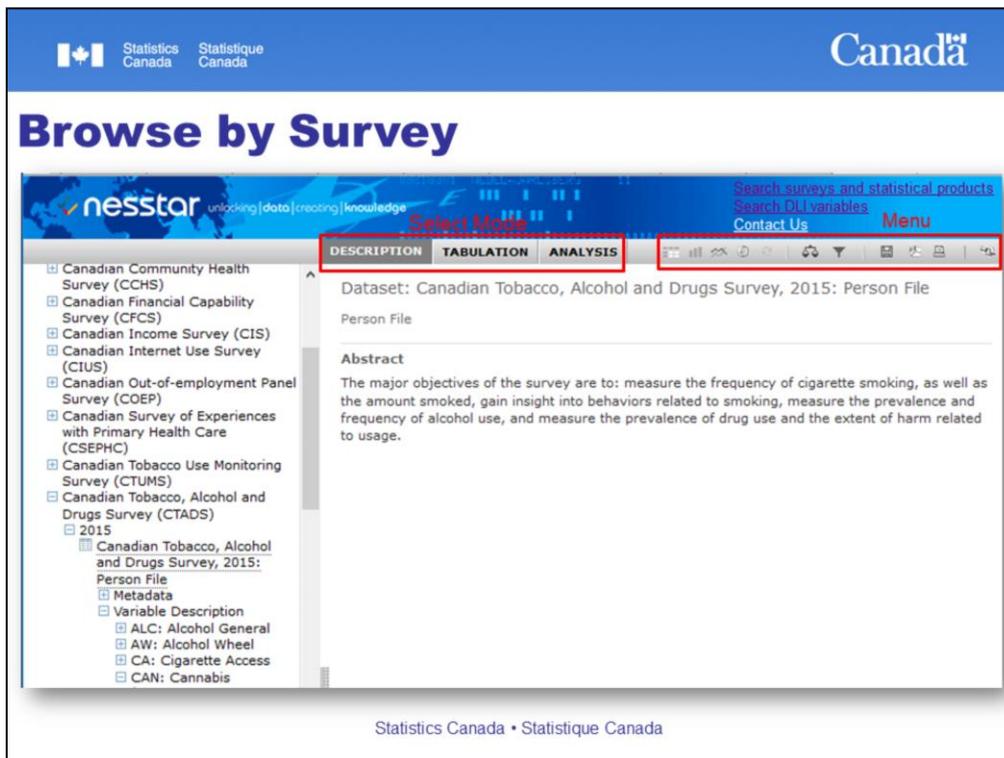
39 results

- 1 [CAN_040 - Used marijuana - 3 months](#)
 During the past three months have you used marijuana?
 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File
 2016-11-09
- 2 [CAN_050 - Frequency of using marijuana - 3 months](#)
 During the past three months how often did you use marijuana?
 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File
 2016-11-09
- 3 [CAN_040 - Marijuana use - past 3 months](#)
 During the past three months have you used marijuana?
 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2013: Person File
 2015-02-03
- 4 [CAN_050 - Marijuana use - frequency - past 3 months](#)
 During the past three months how often did you use marijuana?
 Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2013: Person File
 2015-02-03
- 5 [cud6 - Past 3 mths need marijuana in mom](#)
 How often during the PAST 3 MONTHS did you need to use marijuana in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy session of using marijuana? Would you say...

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You can also search variables. Once again, you can limit by survey and then by subject. Note that the result list no longer lists survey titles (as it did in the previous example), but now lists variables. If you click on the variable, you'll be taken to the variable description (as seen above).

If two or more search times are entered, it will return hits that include all your search terms. It is possible to use other operators to connect words, like AND, OR, NOT and to search for phrases by using quotation marks.



When you click on a survey title, example Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS) 2015 Persons File, the description tab becomes active and the “abstract” for that dataset is displayed. An active tab has a dark-gray background and white text. An inactive tab has a light-grey background and black text.

The Description tab: displays descriptive information about the dataset.

In the browse list, under the survey title, you will see metadata folders, which provide information about the dataset in the following subfolders:

Study Description: contains information about the survey, such as title, abstract, keywords

Other Documentation: contains links to survey resources, including links to the IMDB page, codebook, user guides, etc

Variable Description: provides details of all variables within a survey dataset.

Browse variable description

The screenshot displays the Nesstar interface. At the top, the 'nesstar' logo is visible with the tagline 'unlocking data | creating knowledge'. The navigation bar includes 'DESCRIPTION', 'TABULATION', and 'ANALYSIS' tabs. The main content area is titled 'Dataset: Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File'. On the left, a tree view shows the hierarchy: 'Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP)', 'Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (CADS)', 'Canadian Alcohol and Drug Usage Monitoring Survey (CADUMS)', 'Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)', 'Canadian Financial Capability Survey (CFCS)', 'Canadian Income Survey (CIS)', 'Canadian Internet Use Survey (CIUS)', 'Canadian Out-of-employment Panel Survey (COEP)', 'Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care (CSEPHC)', 'Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS)', 'Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS)', and '2015' (expanded) -> 'Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File' (expanded) -> 'Variable Description' (expanded) -> 'ALC: Alcohol General', 'AW: Alcohol Wheel', 'CA: Cigarette Access', 'CAN: Cannabis', 'COC: Cocaine', 'DHA: Drug Harms', 'DV: Derived variables', 'ELC: Electronic Cigarette', 'EX: Exposure to Second-hand Smoke', 'GLU: Inhalants', 'HAL: Hallucinogens', 'HER: Heroin', and 'HS: Household Smoking'. On the right, a list of variables is shown with expandable icons: 'ALC: Alcohol General', 'AW: Alcohol Wheel', 'CA: Cigarette Access', 'CAN: Cannabis', 'COC: Cocaine', 'DHA: Drug Harms', 'DV: Derived variables', 'ELC: Electronic Cigarette', 'EX: Exposure to Second-hand Smoke', 'GLU: Inhalants', 'HAL: Hallucinogens', 'HER: Heroin', 'HS: Household Smoking', 'HWB: General Health', 'LMA3: Class of Worker', 'LMA4: Labour Market Activities Minimal', 'LP: Language of Preference', 'MET: Methamphetamines', 'MINTH: Menthol', 'OM: Other Cessation Methods', 'PP: Purchasing Patterns', 'PR: Pain Relievers', 'PS: Past Smoking', and 'SAL: SALVIA'.

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Nesstar allows you to also view surveys by variable description.

In this example under PUMFs select “Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File”.

Clicking on any variable on the right side of the screen will show the variable group.

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Variable description

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Variable description

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Monitoring Survey (CADUMS)

- 2011
- 2010
 - Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2010
 - Metadata
 - Variable Description
 - Alcohol
 - Cannabis/Marijuana
 - Assist
 - Cannabis/Marijuana
 - Have you ever tried cannabis in lifetime
 - Past year,R used cannabis
 - Past 3 month,R used cannabis**
 - # times used cannabis past 30 day
 - Age when you started using marijuana
 - Cannabis - Help (Needing or Asking For)
 - Cudit (Non Repeated Items)
 - Derived Variables
 - Demographic Variables
 - Driving
 - Energy Drinks
 - Geographic Variables

Dataset: Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2010

Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2010

Variable can3: Past 3 month,R used cannabis

LITERAL QUESTION

And how about in the past 3 months? How often did you use marijuana?

Values	Categories	N	NW	
0	...never	367	601,543.7	21.7%
1	...less than monthly	363	654,972.7	23.6%
2	...monthly	255	444,401.6	16.0%
3	...weekly	305	523,411.9	18.9%
4	...daily or almost daily	306	540,685.1	19.5%
8	Don't know	5	5,219.8	0.2%
9	Refused	3	6,023.8	0.2%
Sysmiss		12011	23,181,176.4	

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Valid cases	1604	2776258.613
Missing cases	12011	2.318117636E7
Minimum	0.0	
Maximum	9.0	
Mean	1.92	1.935
Standard deviation	1.514	1.497

This variable is numeric

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If available, you will have the Question, description of variable, etc. This information is pulled from the codebook.

Note that the variable description gives you value labels as well as unweighted frequencies (“N”) and weighted frequencies (“NW”).

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Tabulations

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DESCRIPTION TABULATION ANALYSIS

Dataset: Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File
Person File

Used marijuana - Ever: Categories

	Code	Frequency	% of all	% of valid
Used marijuana - Ever				
Yes	1	6,194	40.9	41.3
No	2	8,800	58.1	58.7
Don't know	7	7	0.0	-
Refusal	8	28	0.2	-
Not stated	9	125	0.8	-
Total		15,154	100.0	100.0

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Nesstar allows a variety of functions, including tabulations. A table can be created containing one or more variables from a survey dataset.

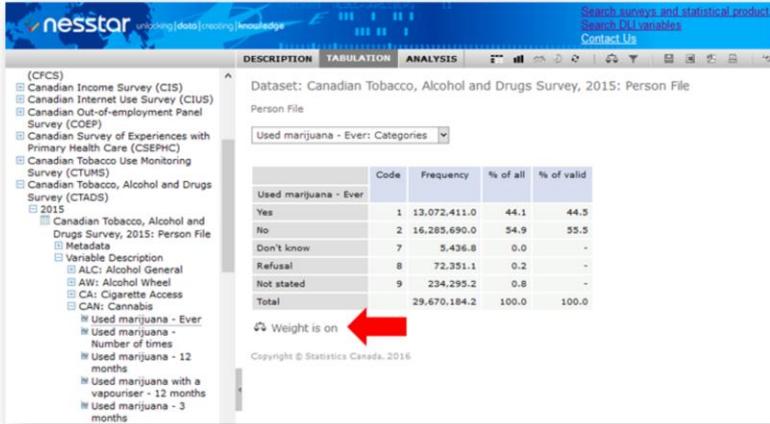
When working with tables, Nesstar is great, because it supports drag and drop to alter a table. This makes it very user-friendly and allows modifications to be easily done.

The table cells represent the frequency that particular categories, or combination of categories, occurred.

If more than one variable is added to a row or column, the variables will appear nested in the table.


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Tabulations



Dataset: Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File

Person File

Used marijuana - Ever: Categories

Used marijuana - Ever	Code	Frequency	% of all	% of valid
Yes	1	13,072,411.0	44.1	44.5
No	2	16,285,690.0	54.9	55.5
Don't know	7	5,436.8	0.0	-
Refusal	8	72,251.1	0.2	-
Not stated	9	234,295.2	0.8	-
Total		29,670,184.2	100.0	100.0

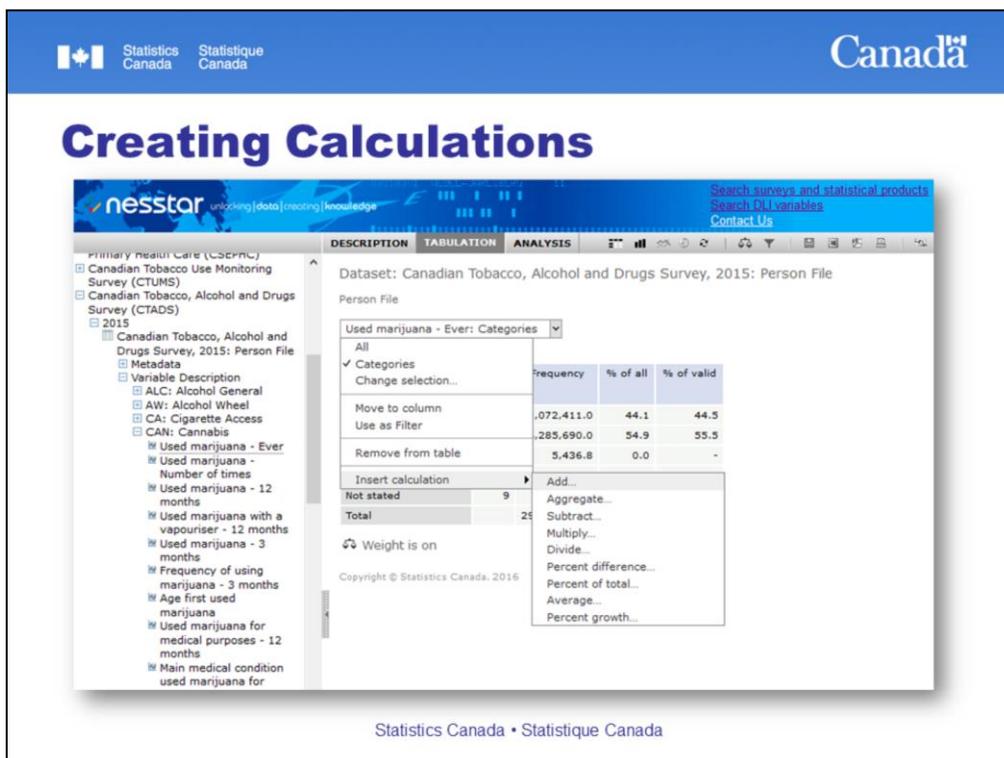
Weight is on 

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Nesstar also allows you to perform analysis on selected cases and also add filters and weights.

You should use weights as indicated by the codebook. It is **almost never appropriate** to use unweighted counts, but it is only appropriate to use the weights if release criteria are met (often $n=30$). What does this mean? Make sure you do not reduce your sample population to the point where there are less than 30 respondents in your cell count. If need be, you can recode variables to make your cell counts higher. Using geography or age is often an easy way to do this.



Nesstar allows you to easily perform calculations. Inserting calculations lets users calculate and display new categories in a table. New categories can only be calculated on variables that are already added to a table.

In this example under PUMFs, select the Canadian Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs survey, 2015 person file.

Then select tabulation.

Under description of variables you can add a column in this case Marijuana use – ever used/tried was selected and you click it to add column.

In the drop-down menu, you can select a calculation such as:

- Aggregate
- Subtract
- Multiply
- Division and more

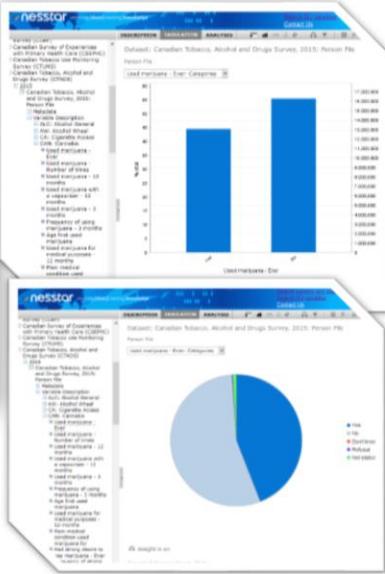

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Graphs



Dataset: Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2015: Person File
 Used marijuana - Ever: Categories

Code	Frequency	% of all	% of value
Used marijuana - Ever			
Yes	13,072,411.0	44.1	44.1
No	16,285,690.0	54.9	55.0
Don't know	7,5436.8	0.0	0.0
Refusal	8,72,351.1	0.2	0.2
Not stated	9,234,295.2	0.8	0.8
Total	29,670,184.2	100.0	100.0



The top screenshot shows a bar chart with two bars representing 'Yes' and 'No' categories. The 'No' bar is significantly taller than the 'Yes' bar.

The bottom screenshot shows a pie chart where the 'No' slice (light blue) represents approximately 55% of the total, and the 'Yes' slice (dark blue) represents approximately 44%.

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Another function of Nesstar is the creation of graphs.

Various bar graphs can be created as well as pie charts. Here are simple illustrations to show its functionality.

In this example under PUMFs select Canadian Tobacco, alcohol and drugs survey 2015 person file.

Select tabulation.

Under variable description marijuana use – ever used / tried select add column. Then click the diagram icon.

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Exporting and Printing Options

DESCRIPTION TABULATION ANALYSIS

Dataset: Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2013: Person File
Person File

Marijuana use - ever used / tried : Categories

Marijuana use - ever used / tried	Yes	No	Don't know	Refusal	Not stated	Total
Code	1	2	7	8	9	
Frequency	5,616	8,820	7	29	93	14,565
% of all	38.6	60.6	0.0	0.2	0.6	100.0
% of valid	38.9	61.1	-	-	-	100.0

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Nesstar allows you to export and print tables.

The first icon to the left in the box allows you to export a table to a spreadsheet, such as Excel.

The second icon exports it to a PDF file

The third icon allows you to print

The screenshot shows the Nesstar interface for downloading datasets. The page title is "Downloading datasets". The dataset selected is "Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, 2013: Person File". The interface includes a left-hand navigation menu with various survey categories, a central panel with tabs for "DESCRIPTION", "TABULATION", and "ANALYSIS", and a right-hand panel for downloading. A red arrow points to the "Download" button. A dropdown menu is open, showing the following options: SPSS, SPSS Portable, Stata v 8, Stata v 7, Nesstar Publisher, NSDstat, Statistica, DIF, Textfile, Delimited, SAS, and Comma Separated Value file.

One of the other great features of Nesstar is the ability to download datasets in various formats. This allows users to access the datasets in the format or program of their choice.

Some of the available formats include SAS, SPSS, and STATA.

Documentation can also be downloaded in XML and PDF format.

**Thanks to the DLI Unit
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For assistance, please contact
UNB's Data/GIS Librarian
Siobhan Hanratty
hanratty@unb.ca
506-451-6803